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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION EDUCATION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that children in our  
2 community are exposed to sexual violence from a very young age.  
3 Researchers estimate that one in four girls and one in six boys  
4 will experience some form of sexual abuse before the age of  
5 eighteen. The United States Department of Justice reports that  
6 forty-four per cent of rape victims are under age eighteen.  
7 Sixty-one per cent of victims who sought sex abuse treatment in  
8 2003 were minors at the time of their assault. Four out of five  
9 students report experiencing some form of sexual harassment  
10 during their middle and high school years.

11           The legislature also finds that as child sexual and  
12 physical abuse continues to escalate in Hawaii, so does the  
13 juvenile crime rate, especially among boys. Male abuse victims  
14 may be more prone to act out their trauma through violence  
15 toward others. In some instances, boys replicate the violence  
16 they suffered with violence toward others, including girls, in  
17 order to vindicate their masculinity. While females tend to  
18 turn their trauma inwards, the results are no less devastating.



1 Symptoms of child sexual abuse include fear and anxiety, sleep  
2 disturbances, poor self-esteem, depression with underlying anger  
3 and hostility, poor school performance, shame, guilt, and self-  
4 destructive behavior.

5       The legislature also finds that it is necessary to provide  
6 our children with the tools necessary to prevent becoming either  
7 a victim or perpetrator of sex abuse, how to report sex abuse,  
8 and why sexual violence occurs. While the Hawaii health  
9 education standards address, in a static way, the causes of  
10 unhealthy behaviors, the consequences of choosing them, and  
11 abstaining from consensual sex, they do not develop in a dynamic  
12 context the skills necessary to avoid committing acts of sexual  
13 violence or becoming the victim of such acts.

14       The legislature also finds that, in the past decade, there  
15 have been more than forty published evaluations of child sex  
16 assault prevention programs for preschool and elementary school  
17 age children. Effective programs have been shown to result in  
18 knowledge gains, including the ability to identify inappropriate  
19 touch, and increased self-protection skills, such as saying no  
20 and a willingness to speak up about abuse. There also have been  
21 various published evaluations of sexual assault prevention  
22 programs targeting older children and young adults since the



1 1970's. Hawaii needs a curriculum that covers a range of topics  
2 tailored to a student's grade level, from basic lessons on  
3 topics such as saying "no" to unwanted touch and speaking up if  
4 victimized to more advanced topics such as sexual harassment,  
5 date rape drugs, sexual coercion in dating relationships and  
6 cultural influences that contribute to sexual violence.

7 The purpose of this Act is to develop a sexual assault  
8 prevention curriculum that will help Hawaii's public school  
9 students identify sexually abusive situations, teach them how to  
10 protect themselves, and to access help if victimized. It is  
11 also the purpose of this Act to encourage students to develop  
12 healthy, respectful relationships and to participate in creating  
13 a safe, sexual harassment free environment at school.

14 SECTION 2. (a) The department of education shall develop  
15 a sexual assault prevention curriculum as part of its health  
16 education curriculum. The curriculum shall feature multiple  
17 lesson plans targeted at kindergarten through twelfth grade  
18 students, a teacher-friendly lesson plan format, and flexible,  
19 interactive learning activities for students.

20 (b) For preschool and elementary school age children, the  
21 curriculum shall:



- 1           (1) Use developmentally appropriate language, content,  
2           and teaching methods;
- 3           (2) Use behavior rehearsal, role playing, and feedback to  
4           teach skills;
- 5           (3) Provide multiple sessions; and
- 6           (4) Use content that focuses on:
  - 7           (A) Helping children distinguish between appropriate  
8           and inappropriate touching;
  - 9           (B) Teaching children self-protection skills;
  - 10          (C) Stressing body ownership and self-pride;
  - 11          (D) Emphasizing that the child is never at fault in  
12          cases of sex assault; and
  - 13          (E) Involving parents.
- 14          (c) For middle and high school age children, the  
15 curriculum shall:
  - 16          (1) Include a discussion of common rape myths;
  - 17          (2) Incorporate teaching scenarios that include at least  
18          one male victim;
  - 19          (3) Balance risk reduction strategies with the message  
20          that victims are not to blame;
  - 21          (4) Utilize local statistics;



- 1 (5) Focus on healthy behaviors in addition to negative
- 2 behaviors;
- 3 (6) Utilize multiple, interactive learning strategies;
- 4 (7) Avoid confrontational approaches that blame males; and
- 5 (8) Provide multiple sessions.

6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000, or so much  
 8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for  
 9 development and implementation of a sexual violence prevention  
 10 curriculum in compliance with this Act.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
 12 education for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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**Report Title:**

Sexual Violence; Prevention; Education

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the department of education to develop and implement a sexual violence prevention curriculum that will feature multiple, age appropriate lesson plans targeted at kindergarten through 12th grade students, a teacher-friendly lesson plan format, and flexible, interactive learning activities for students.

